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as having a dark soul. The word *potemki* means "incapability to see anything by a blind man," and in this expression means only—and nothing else—"mystery."

A. K.

### A LITTLE LESSON IN LOGIC

SIR,—I have no doubt that you want to do your fullest bit in the prosecution of our great war, but do you think you are helping the cause by such "cutting and slashing" editorials as your "Plea to the President," which appears in your March number? What do you suppose would be the effect on the public morale and on the morale of the soldiers who are fighting in the field and training in the various camps if this editorial were echoed by all the magazines and newspapers of the country?

I have no doubt it is hard for you—it would be for me if I were in your place—to "forgive and forget" Mr. Wilson's blunderbuss in eliminating you from his supporters in 1911-12 after all you had done in support of his Presidential candidacy; and it is very natural for you to remember his refusal to recognize the "unspeakable Huerta" as President of Mexico, which you so strongly urged upon him, and perhaps you have not yet recovered from your disappointment on account of his defeating Mr. Hughes in 1916, whom you were so very, very, anxious to place in the Presidential office. But since Mr. Wilson is the people's chosen President, since he is the captain of the ship on which we are sailing over bloody seas, since he is Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, which are a wall of fire between the German war machine and our free government, is it not better that the people—and the army—should have the fullest possible confidence in his Administration?

As to your question whether a former pacifist like Secretary Baker can possibly prosecute the war efficiently as the head of the War Department, let me refer you to the cases of William McKinley and Abraham Lincoln, saying nothing about the cases of millions on millions of your fellow-citizens who deprecated war and were anxious to avoid a conflict with Germany, but are now ready to "do or die" in their country's cause.

NEWARK, OHIO.

MILTON R. SCOTT.

[Our courteous correspondent seems to be laboring under an error of logic peculiar to a certain type of American mind. It consists in assuming that support of the Nation in its high purposes is synonymous with support of the Nation's administrative agents in their follies and ineptitudes. Let us paraphrase the second question of our correspondent's letter and turn it in his own direction: "What do you suppose would be the effect on the public morale and on the morale of the soldiers who are fighting in the field and training in the various camps if they thought that the stubborn stupidities of the men responsible for their lives and the safety of the Nation were deliberately concealed and condoned by those intrusted with the duty of public comment upon the conduct of the war?" Our correspondent, thinking reverently of Secretary Baker, refers to the attitude of Lincoln and McKinley toward *their* War Secretaries. Well, when Lincoln found that Cameron was unfit, Cameron went; and Alger did not survive the revelation of his incompetency as long as Baker has survived the revelation of his.—EDITOR.]